

Evelyne N. Byll-Paul  
12432 Braxted Drive ■ Orlando, FL 32837

January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to register my opinion in support of the Microsoft settlement. To begin with, I agree with the 32 states that decided to not join the case in the first place. I don't think there was any justification for the lawsuit, and there wasn't any real evidence that consumers had been overcharged or deprived in any way. There has always been free choice in the computer marketplace, and people simply chose Microsoft's Windows over other systems, and a stronger market of partnering companies has built up around Windows.

I work with Microsoft Windows NT to administer a local area network (LAN) in my division of our healthcare company, and we use a non-Microsoft billing software package customized for our industry. This collaboration is part of the strength of the Microsoft Windows system. The settlement will encourage still greater cooperation. For instance, Microsoft will release its software codes and allow computer makers to be more flexible in how, or if, they load Windows or other Microsoft software. The programs included in Windows installation, such as Internet Explorer browser and Windows Media Player, will be made easier to remove and substitute with non-Microsoft products, like Netscape Navigator. Software experts on a government-sponsored technical committee will monitor Microsoft for compliance with the agreement, and investigate complaints. These provisions should enable the industry to make creative use of Microsoft's Windows innovations, and assure the industry that Microsoft will live up to the agreement.

I appreciate the leadership you have provided in seeing that the settlement is approved by the Federal Court's new judge on this case. Once this case is resolved, the American will be better off. Thank you for considering my public comment.

Sincerely,

  
Evelyne Byll-Paul

CC: Representative Rick Keller